

Consider JesusTitle: ~~Who Built Your House?~~

Text: 3:1-2

Let's open our Bibles and turn to the most Koshere book in the N.T. The book of Hebrews chapter 3 and beginning at verse 1. There are notes in your bulletin. So, take them out and let's begin studying God's Word together.

Hebrews is about the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. And the first 7 chapters of this book is teaching the authority of Christ over all. He wants our worship. He wants our praise. He wants our ~~submission~~ <sup>commitment</sup>. The Bible presents Him as "all authority."

(1B) We examined his authority, first of all, over angels. Christ is not merely an exalted angel. He is greater than the Angels because He is God.

(2B) Secondly, we are going to examine the authority of Jesus over Moses and the house of Israel.

Now, if you were a Jew and I would ask you "Who are the most important people in your history?" There is no question but you would come up with the following: Abraham...right on...he is the father of our nation. And of course Moses, the great law giver. And then you ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> probable ~~through~~ <sup>throw</sup> in the great prophet Elijah....Those ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> be the big three....

If I began a discussion with you on who I thought was the Messiah and said to you that I thought He was greater than Moses, and you didn't think that the fellow I was talking about was the Messiah, I could be ~~open~~ <sup>open</sup> opening up the eternal hornets nest.....Understand?....

This book is written to ~~Jews~~ <sup>Jews</sup>. And the point at hand, now, is extremely important in that regards. We are now going to give you the teaching of the Bible that Jesus of Nazareth is greater..than..the greatest law giver in the history of Israel. Namely, Moses....As great as he was. And the Bible even says that he was the most meek man that has ever lived on the face of the earth.....Jesus is greater than Moses...

The argument is found in the first 6 verses of chapter 3. ~~Today~~ <sup>Today</sup> you ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> notice them carefully in your Bibles as we read this position of scripture. We will look at Vs 1- and 2

(Read 3:1-2)

Shall we pray

Father, we thank you again for your Word. Than you for these verse. And we pray that in these few moments together you would unvail their meaning to us. That we would see Jesus, again, as you want him to be seen. Father, there are various needs here amongst your people. We know that you are aware of them, and I am not. I thank you for your Word which is able to be applied to any need at any time. Thank you for the ministry of your Holy Spirit. We know that ther are people here who have not yet really committed themselves to Jeus. Thank you for their interest. Thank you for their continued consideration of Him. God, I would pray in this moment that this time together that this discision might be settled in their hearts. That Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of kings and my personal salviour and high priest. And I pray, Lord, that you would also build up the christians who have gathered together to hear your word. That we might once again see the pre-emenience of Jesus in our midsst. That we would get our eyes off the circumstance of this life and put them on Him <sup>idho</sup> alone is worthy of all our intention. And <sup>dis</sup> in <sup>the</sup> ~~any~~ wonderfully ~~any~~ name that is above every name, that we pray this: even Jesus Christ our Lord....Amen....

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(1C) We are going to began by looking at a comparison between Jesus and Moes.  
Which is the first way inwhich the authority of Christ over Moses and the  
house of Israel is being discribed. And in this comparison, there is ~~an~~ simple word which starts it off. It is the word "consider"....

Now, the real thing that you are to consider is actnral the ~~the~~ next word..."Jesus"....

So, the thing that Paul wants us to be encouraged about is "to consider Jesus.".....

Now, the word "consider" means "to give serious attention." It is not just a passing look at Jesus. It is not just to take one look and forget about it. It is serious attention.....

The word comes from two roots. One, meaning "according to." The other meaning "mind." And it is talking about a real mental consideration. According to your mind give ~~ser~~ious study. Give real mental consideration to the subject at hand. And that is what the Bible is asking all of us to now give to the person of Jesus Christ..."Consider Jesus."

(1D) In Verse 1 and 2 in looking at this comparison between Jesus and Moses, Paul starts off with an <sup>encouragement</sup> ~~exhortation~~. And there are two things under this <sup>encouragement</sup> ~~exhortation~~ that I want you to notice.

(1E) First of all, the people to whom it was given.

And there is a two fold discription of these people, ~~Who~~ ~~to~~ ~~consider~~ ~~them~~? Who are these people to whom this <sup>encouragement</sup> ~~exhortation~~ is given? ~~And these people are discribed in two ways.~~

(1F) These people are, first of all called, Vs 1 "Holy Brethren."

Of course this refers to our relationship one to another. And, also, our position before God. It is talking basically to believers. In the context it would be "Jewish believers." The book is written to Hebrew Christians. And so he is talking to Jewish believers. But, all believers are now <sup>encouraged</sup> ~~exhortated~~ to say "CONSIDER JESUS."

I believe that <sup>also</sup> all non-believers should be <sup>encouraged</sup> ~~exhortated~~ to ~~be~~ "consider Jesus." We want you <sup>also</sup> to give serious attention to that. Even though you may not have personally, ~~yet~~ yet, committed yourself to Jesus Christ. Yet, every one of us should consider Him.

But, believers you should understand that this message, here, is to you. It is written to you. It is written to me. "Consider Jesus"....And Paul is discribing us as being "Holy Brethren."

*mt* Now, holiness....It is simply the word "Saints." Some people think that saints are special people who have proven themselves through life to be worthy of the attention of the church. Acturally the Bible writes to all christians and calls us all "saints."

The word "Holy", here, simply means "separate.". Now in what sense are we separate?.....

Well, the moment you accept Christ as your saviour you become a member of the family of God. You are brothers...You are holy brothers because you have been separated by being placed into God's family from that which is outside. Namely, the world. So you are separated from that...

Also, you are separated from sin. At least from its consequences and its penalty. You are now in Christ. And you are secure from that standpoint.

You are holy, set apart by God....That holiness which is begun by an act of God when you got saved, that holiness will continue throughout your christian life. As God will sanctify or set you apart or cause you to demonstrate that which your position already is...

Now, listen carefully. I am not going to be anymore holy tomorrow than I am today. Don't cry...but that is true...I am not going to be any more holy a week from now than I am right now. As a matter of fact, although I have spent some time studying the Bible, none of the study that I have done has made me anymore holy than the first day I ask Jesus to come into my life. You see, at that moment I was declared to be holy by God...Set apart...And I have not become anymore holy or set apart since that day....

Now, I praise God that the effect of studying his word and learning about my position in God's family has resulted in some changes in my life. And has caused some maturity in my christian walk, *and has caused some spiritual growth*

But, my position has not changed one bit. *What* are we holy in Christ. And we are all, as believers, called holy brethren....That is the first thing. So, it is to the holy brethren who were supposedly "set apart" to whom he says, "Consider Jesus.".....

There is a punch line here that I don't want you to miss...We are not only holy or separate from the world or from sin and its consequences; but that is only the negative side of it. The positive side is that I am separate unto God and fellowship with him and what he wants to accomplish in my life. That is the positive aspects of what is called "sanctification," or "Holiness,"...Being separate ....

*omit*

So, you see, Christians sometimes who are positional "holy" and are thankful that they are now separate from the consequences of sin. They are saved by Christ, <sup>But</sup> they sometimes forget the positive side of holiness or separateness. And that is to "consider Jesus".....

You see, there is a point as to why he called them "holy brethren." You have been set apart from sin, but also unto ~~Christ~~ <sup>Christ</sup>. Then consider Jesus. Don't lose sight of Jesus....

These Jewish believers, if you will remember from our introduction of Hebrews, <sup>These</sup> Jewish believers were trying to go back to the safe haven of Judism. At this time the Jews were not under persecution. But, Christians were being persucted. So, they were wanting to go back to Judism even though they had come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. They thought they could practice Christianity under the safety of Judism. That is what the whole book of Hebrews is about.

And Paul is saying to these people: "don't fear being identified with Christ. Because you were set apart unto Him. Not just from the results of sin, but unto Christ. So, consider giving serious mental attention to Jesus who is the sum total and center of all that Christianity is all about....

*omit*

And how easy it is for us who are secure in our position to get all wrapped ~~up~~ up in what is going on around us in the horizontal plane; and forget what it is all about. It is all about Jesus..

Paul wrote in Colossians chapter 3 to set your minds on things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. It is Christ who is our light. It is Christ with whom we are going to fellowship throughout all eternity. It is the son whom the Father says, "I want all honor to go to him.".....

It is so easy to be secure in our position and to ignore the fact of Jesus and what Christianity is all about.....god wants us to give serious mental attention to who Jesus is and how great and wonderful he is...

*and if you do that,*

It will change a lot of the ways in which we think about our circumstance.. It will make a difference in your life.....

(2F) Now, the second way that he describes these people <sup>to whom</sup> he is writing and <sup>encouraging</sup> ~~exhorting~~ them to consider Jesus is that he calls them "partakers of a heavenly calling."

<sup>out</sup> Now, there is a punch line here, ~~also~~. You know, there are many words that Paul could have used to describe christians, but he choose two that are the punch line of what he wants to say. ~~that~~

When he said "partakers of the heavenly calling" he simple meant: "just remember where we are going."

If you are so concerned about what will happen to you down here, I just want to remaind you <sup>of that</sup> ~~same thing~~, you are headed for heaven...That is your home.

Now, people make a mistake I think, and some times use this verse as a terrible thing. They say, "if you are so heavenly minded you are no earthly good."....Have you ever heard that?....Now, that didn't come from the Bible. That must come from Satan....

Because the Bible teaches, "If you are heavenly minded you will be some earthly good.....You see...You can't get so heavenly minded. You are a partaker of the heavenly calling. <sup>That's</sup> Where ~~are~~ you headed?

You see, we are just on earth for a little while. What is your life, but a vapor that soon vanishes away. Part of our problem in finding our personal worthy and what God wants to do in our lives, now, is that we forget where we are <sup>going</sup> ~~headed~~. <sup>That's</sup> We are not laying up treasurers in heaven. We are laying them up on earth. And Jesus keeps telling us that those things are going to decay and there willn't be anything to them. You are headed for heaven. Our human existences is just temporary....We, are partakers of a heavenly calling.

Now, heavenly in serveral ways, I believe.

<sup>out</sup> (1G) First of all, by origin, because God called me. He is in heaven calling me to himself..Origin, yousee. Where it comes from.

2G. But, I think, primarily, as to ultimate goal, where I am heading. For example Philippians 3:14, Paul said: "I press towards the mark of the high calling of God...."

And Paul is saying: " I am pressing. My whole life ..all my motivation is pressing for the time when I will meet Christ. That is where I am heading

So, it is the upward call as far as goal as well as in terms of source or origin.

So, it is to these people. Christian people who are by way of position suppose to be separate in terms of attention towards Jesus and away from sin; and ,also, in terms of this calling. Partakers of a heavenly calling. Where I am going? I am going to heaven. Well, let's get our attention up there....Fix your eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith... So, let's get our minds off of circumstance.....

*and*

Now, all of us have circumstance, right now that are brothing us. Your business, your home, and all that kind of ~~stuff~~ stuff. And these people had severe circumstances on the horizontal level. Severe persecution and loss of life being threatened to them.

Yet, he says, "let's get your eyes off of that now. Come one...And let's consider Jesus." You see, that is what it is all about...

(2E) O.k. Secondly, in looking at this <sup>encouragement</sup> exhortation, let's examine the person whom we are to consider. Of course it is Jesus. But there are three specific things mentioned in these two verses, Vs 1 and 2, which describe Jesus as to why you should consider him...

(1F) One, he is called the apostle. Vs 1....The Apostle...

The word "apostle" simple means: "one who is sent." The issue here is his authority. He is sent by the authority of the Heavenly Father. Now, who wouldn't want to listen to a representation of the Heavenly Father? Jesus said constantly, especial as recorded in the Gospel of John, He said: "I am the sent one. As my Father has sent me, so I send you." It is mentioned scores of times...He is the Apostle: the sent one. It emphasis his authority.

(2F) Secondly, he is called "the high priest of our confession."

Let's look at the word "confession." It is so easy to mouth words, isn't it?...You know, if you want to impress ~~someone~~ <sup>someone</sup> that you are not an ~~Someone~~

atheists you say: "sure, I believe in <sup>God</sup> ~~Christ~~, doesn't everyone?"....

That is a confession of sorts....

Or, if you feel that in the group that you presently associate with, whether it is in business or just socially, if all of them are non-believers and you are not very vocal or solid mature believer, you will probably refuse to identify yourself. But if someone asks you, <sup>are you a Christian</sup> you might respond: "Well, sure, I, ah, you know, ~~believe in him.~~ <sup>I go to church.</sup>"

Now, that is a confession of sorts....

Or, if the whole group is believers and you realize that you are not to committed. But you don't want to stand out, so you say! "Oh, sure, I am a believer ~~also.~~.... That is another kind of confession. All three are examples of confessions....

What is the meaning of <sup>the word</sup> confession? Because you see it is very important. The Bible says that you are not even in the family <sup>of God</sup> except through confession.

Romans 10:9 says "that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved."

So, it is ~~obviously~~ quite clear that whatever confession is, it is the key to being saved. People might describe it in different ways. But we ought to know what it means.....

Confession is two words in the Greek....One, meaning "the same"...The other meaning "to speak".

Literally it means "to speak the same thing". Or, <sup>it is</sup> the ~~Greeks~~ used it in the sense of "I agree."..."No question about it." "That is the truth." "I agree to it"....

So, the thing that we agree to....the thing that we say the same thing that God says is the whole issue of Christianity.....

Example: have you ever met somebody who says: "I ~~believe~~ believe in Jesus Christ. But, there is one thing I don't want to accept and that is that He is God.".....



That is a little hard for me to believe that you are really agreeing or confessing to the same thing that the Bible says about Christ...

The Bible says that Jesus is God in human flesh. So, therefore, you couldn't possibly be a believer until you agree to that fact...And say that is the truth.

Or, to say that "I believe that Christ died for <sup>my sins</sup> sins, but I don't know about my future sins..."...You know, in that sense you are limiting God, you are limiting His power. And you are not agreeing to what the Bible says that He died for all sins: past, present, and future. Regardless of who committed it and when.....It was either sufficient at the cross or it wasn't..."

Or, someone will say, "Do you have to believe that Jesus is bodily alive today? I mean, couldn't we say that he was resurrected in spirit. Do we have to say that he bodily arose?" -- Yes --

Of course, we have to say that. Again, do you agree to that or don't you? CONFESSION IS....CONFIRMED CONVICTION.....It is complete agreement. It is a statement without hesitation.....That the facts recorded in scripture about Jesus Christ which are essential for salvation...I agree.... And I accept 100%.....THAT IS CONFESSION.....

Some of you may have become a believer, quote..in your words,... without accepting the full message about Christ. There may be some point in which you are not in full agreement. Paul said: examine yourself to see if you are in the faith." You had better agree to everything the Bible says is essential to believe about Christ in order to be saved, if you are counting on being saved. Confession is total complete agreement...

Now, when we come to this, he says, Vs 1, He is the high Priest of our confession.....So, imagine writing to Jews who know about the Priesthood and sacrifices and who are still going to a temple in Jerusalem that has not yet been destroyed. Writing to them and saying: "listen, friends, you say that you are believers, you say you give complete agreement to Jesus being the high priest, then why in the world would you want to return to the old system....of Judaism

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That is a tremendous point here in Vs 1<sup>2</sup>...Jesus is the high priest of your confession, says Paul.....

And the phrases "High Priest" means "that Jesus is the one who in the O.T. went into the Holy of Holies and offered the blood of the animal on the mercy seat. The day of atonement as it is called. Christ taught that He was the blood on that mercy seat. He taught that he was the mercy seat. He taught that he was the Ark. He taught that He was the High Priest. As a matter of fact, he taught that he was whole tabernacle and the temple.

In other words, "consider Jesus." He is everything...Why would you want to go back to something that was only temporary. And a type which looked forward to him. Have you now agreed and accepted that Jesus is THE HIGH PRIEST.....Therefore, why would you want to go back to Judaism. That is the point of this verse.....And the same argument is true about our confession....

(3F) Now, third, in Vs 2, He is called "faithful to Him who appointed Him."

The word "appointed" means "selected". And Paul is saying that Jesus was faithful to God who selected him, as Moses also was in all of his house." You see, he is comparing them. Both were faithful.....

But, the point that Paul is trying to make is a question in the readers mind concerning their "faithfulness!.....And it should cause us to consider our "faithfulness to God". Our Commitment to God....Jesus said in John 14:15: "If you love me.....if you really love like <sup>me</sup> you confess that you do, then you will keep my commandments.".....

In other words, you will be Faithful to me.....Jesus was faithful... Moses was faithful.....Consider Jesus.....

How about it friends?.....What about your commitment?.....How faithful are you to Jesus who is the authority and perfecter of our faith....?

Shall we pray

*are you witnessing for Christ - Are you leading others to Christ*